to lease a portion of Chilka lake to Tatas for Prawn culture; and

(b) whether it is a fact that such prawn culture was practised in Taiwan earlier and has ultimately failed due to toxic effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There are some published reports that the prawn culture involving semi-intensive and intensive technology have not proved ecologically viable in the long-run in some countries of South-east Asia.

Pollution caused by Orient Paper Mills to Hirakud Dam

3345. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pollution caused by Orient Paper Mills, Brajraj Nagar, Sambalpur, Orissa by releasing its effluents to Hirakud Dam; and

(b) whether it is a fact that these effluents are responsible for the cracks in Hirakud Dam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Orient Paper Mills have installed pollution control equipment and also initiated a project for using land as a treatment system for its effluent. The National Council for Building Materials had done a detailed study on the cracks in the Hirakud Dam. They concluded that the composition of the material used in the construction of the Dam was the reason for the cracks.

United Nations Development Programmes

3346. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programmes would assist in strengthening the capability of Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education and other institutes in forestry research;

(b) if so, what are the details of the projects on which U.N.D.P. would assist;

(c) the terms and conditions of the UNDP in assisting the forestry research programmes; and

(d) the allocations made by Government for the said task during the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The UNDP is assisting a project "Strengthening and Developing the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education" which is to be implemented over a period of five years i.e. 1992 to 1997 with Government of India contribution being Rs. 21.94 million and UNDP assistance in the nature of grants-in-aid being US $ 2.56 million respectively.

The salient components incorporated in the project include intensive training in research management for the Directors of the ICFRE institutes, short term visits of scientists and research demonstrators, purchase of equipment and material, organising of training and demonstrations for farmers, women and tribals, collaboration with State research organisations for dissemination of technological packages; utilisation of national and international consultancy services and undertaking of survey and studies related to forestry problems.